GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
UPGRADING OF MM GUNS
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to undertake `Up gunning` of 130 mm guns about four years back;

(b) if so, the steps taken, the company selected and the amount of expenditure incurred for the purpose;

(c) the procedure followed in selecting the company to undertake the work;

(d) whether the up gunning was later given up;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total amount of loss resulting therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government had decided to undertake `up gunning` of 130mm guns to 155mm caliber in 1991.

(b) A letter of invitation was issued in 1992. Out of five offers received, only M/s. Soltam, Israel fielded one up-gunned system for trials in 1993. The trials were carried out and the gun was recommended for introduction into service. The contract was signed in March, 2000 for US $ 47,524,137.

(c) The Defence Procurement Procedure in vogue then was followed.

(d) The up gunning was held up for a short duration.

(e) The validation trial with up-gunned equipment held in 2001 in India was unsuccessful.

(f) No loss was incurred.